

NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH
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Q.R. 27

Chairman: Captain T. Woodhead, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: G.J. Cotton, Esq.

Clerk: S.F. Esland, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector

and Surveyor: M.O. Hillyard, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health: Hugh G. Hanan, M.B.Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1940.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1940.

In view of War Conditions the Minister of Health recommended in Circular 2314 that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be of an interim nature and confined to essential and urgent matters or those arising out of the War. I have, therefore, reported briefly on the important features only but have included the statistics in an abbreviated form.

Vital Statistics, 1940:

Births per 1000 population	-	14.8
Deaths " " "	-	13.1
Infant Mortality per 1000 live births	-	25.3
Deaths arising out of Pregnancy or Childbirth	-	Nil
Deaths occurring from - Whooping Cough or Infantile Diarrhoea	-	Nil

Infectious & Notifiable Diseases:

Diphtheria	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	6
Pneumonia	-	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	3
Measles	-	25
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	1
Erysipelas	-	2

Tuberculosis:-

New cases	-	4
Deaths	-	3

Measles & Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939:

In October 1939, the Minister of Health introduced the Measles & Whooping Cough Regulations by which these diseases became notifiable for the first time in this area.

The above statistics are very satisfactory. The number of cases of Notifiable disease being less than average, notwithstanding the large influx of children evacuated from other areas into the town.

Government Evacuation Scheme:

Northallerton was scheduled as a Reception Area and, in addition to those evacuated persons recorded at the outbreak of war, a further evacuation of children of school age took place in July 1940. There was a marked improvement in the condition of these children, but it was realised that there would be many difficulties in billeting. It was, therefore, decided to make some arrangements to accommodate those who were sick or were in any way unsuitable for private billets.

Mill Hill - a detached residence in Brompton was requisitioned for the Council and furnishings and equipment obtained - some by local purchase, others being supplied by the Authorities.

Miss Musther - late Sister at the Isolation Hospital - took charge with a recruited staff.

The Hostel accommodates up to 30 children and it has proved to be of the greatest use to this Council and those of the adjoining areas.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Emergency Maternity Home for evacuated expectant Mothers at Mount Pleasant continues to receive expectant Mothers from evacuation areas. Many Mothers come individually and after a short convalescence return home with their babies; others are evacuated into this area and after delivery return to their billets.

The Home is run under the direction of the County Council, which is the supervising authority for this area.

Air Raid Precautions:

It was found that the small shed available in the Emergency Hospital was unsatisfactory as a Casualty Depot and two disused cottages in the Black Swan Yard were adapted for that purpose. During the summer we were authorised to recruit three male whole-time members for the Mobile Post. This addition made it possible for all our stores and equipment to be thoroughly overhauled and vehicles to be reconditioned. The personnel of the First Aid Party, Mobile Post and Ambulance Service have continued training, and have showed magnificent keenness and loyalty in turning out for the many alerts and exercises during the year.

Isolation Hospital:

After many delays and revision of plans it has been decided that the two old wooden buildings originally erected years ago for small-pox should each have a sanitary annexe erected.

Base Hospital:

The Civilian Base Hospital was put into use during the year but building still proceeds and it is expected that when completed the Hospital will accommodate about 700 patients. Most, if not all, the staff are billeted in the town.

Salvage of Waste Materials:

Prior to April 1940, no provision was made for the salvage of waste materials by the Council. Earlier in the year the Boy Scout Organisation had commenced the collection of waste paper, and as the effort was insufficiently organised the Council (voluntarily) instituted the collection of paper, metal and glass. The product of six months work resulted in the recovery of 31 tons 11½ cwt. mixed waste paper and 16 tons of metal, including unflattened tins up to the end of the year.

Slaughterhouses:

In January, 1940, the Government Scheme for the control of slaughtering and distribution of meat came into operation, and, in consequence, Northallerton became the centre of the adjoining areas of Northallerton, Thirsk, Bedale and Wath Rural Districts.

Two slaughterhouses in the Urban Area (owned by Messrs. M. Stockdale and the Northallerton Consumers Co-operative Society) were selected and are being used, the remaining slaughterhouses having been discontinued temporarily.

Slaughterhouses (cont'd).

Under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, statutory notices were served on Mr J. Thompson and Mr Harrison in respect of slaughterhouses which are to remain permanently closed.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector to this Council were greatly increased in regard to meat inspection, but were relieved to some extent by the assistance of the Northallerton Rural and Thirsk Rural Inspectors after representations had been made to their Councils. The Thirsk Rural District Council subsequently withdrew their assistance in view of the extra duties accruing to their Official in their own area.

I desire to acknowledge the valuable assistance in respect of meat inspection rendered by Mr D. Davis of the County Medical Officer's Department. He has been frequently called on to advise in special cases of difficulty in a purely honorary capacity.

Water Supply:

In common with water undertakings of other districts of a similar character, the Council's waterworks have been called upon to serve the requirements of much larger populations and to meet conditions of supply of an abnormal character. The increased demand necessitated the duplication of a part of the main syphon, and the work involving the laying of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of main from Sigston to Bullamoor was put into operation on the 14th August, 1940.

The incidence of severe conditions of frost in the winter of 1940 and 1941 and increased demand gave rise to emergency turning off of the supply from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. over periods of several weeks duration, otherwise the supply has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

At the close of the year the Council had arranged for the installation of an improved method of chlorinating the supply as certain samples of water had not reached a satisfactory bacteriological standard. A change in the character of the water had occurred in the late summer months following heavy storms on the catchment area (at a time when the collecting reservoir had been much depleted) had introduced a quantity of finely divided suspended matter which proved, on analysis, to be derived from mineral sources, and, no doubt, this temporarily rendered effective chlorination difficult in the absence of any treatment by a coagulant.

The suspended matter was reported upon by the County Analysts (Messrs. Jackson & Scholes) and was found to consist of silica alumina oxide of iron lime and magnesia, in amounts present in the samples examined it was stated they would have no toxic effect.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HUGH G. HANAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

